



A Monthly Publication

April 2005

ZOOM

IN ON THE USA

Volume II. Issue 14.

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND



Photos courtesy of
the Mississippi
Development Authority/
Division of Tourism

April 22 is Earth Day!

Of the U.S. rivers and streams, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, wetlands, coastal waters, and estuaries sampled most recently, about 40% are rated as polluted.

The pollution of water has a serious impact on all living creatures, and can negatively affect the use of water for drinking, household needs, recreation, fishing, transportation and commerce. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency enforces federal clean water and safe drinking water laws, provides support for municipal wastewater treatment plants, and takes part in pollution prevention efforts aimed at protecting watersheds and sources of drinking water. The Agency carries out both regulatory and voluntary programs to fulfill its mission to protect the nation's waters.

We all need clean water. After all, our bodies are at least 65 percent water. Fish and wildlife depend on clean water to survive. We need clean water to grow crops and to operate factories, for drinking, swimming, surfing, fishing, sailing and to live healthy lives.

The title of this issue is the title of a song by Woody Guthrie

On the Mississippi

Through wild and tangled forests
The broad, unhasting river flows-
Spotted with rain-drops, gray with night;
Upon its curving breast there goes
A lonely steamboat's larboard light,
A blood-red star against the shadowy
oaks;
Noiseless as a ghost, through greenish
gleam
Of fire-flies, before the boat's wild scream-
A heron flaps away
Like silence taking flight.

Hamlin Garland

*From Prairie Songs: Being Chants Rhymed and
Unrhymed of the Level Lands of the Great West,
published by Stone and Kimball, 1893.*

In This Issue: Get GLOBALLY Involved, Ecology around the U.S., Win a Book!

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■ Get GLOBALLY Involved



Students from your school can:

- Do real science - conduct research connected with air, water, and soil.
- Learn hands-on about the environment around you.
- Use the Internet to report your measurements.
- Analyze the results - create maps and graphs.
- Collaborate with students around the world.
- Help scientists around the world in their research.

Encourage your science teachers to join GLOBE!

Numbers

GLOBE is a partnership between the governments, schools, non-governmental organizations of the United States and over 100 countries around the world!

Over a million primary and secondary students in more than 15,000 schools have already taken part in the program.



"The possibility of enjoying an experience like the one I had during ten days with the GLOBE Learning Expedition isn't offered everyday, and I'm very grateful for having enjoyed it. It is not only an experience to learn about the environment, practise and appreciate the nature wonders, but also a cultural exchange and a way to mix with young people from all over the world."

Raquel Gómez, I.E.S. San Isidro, Azuqueca de Henares (Guadalajara, Spain)

Join

To join GLOBE in Spain go to their website:
<http://www.mec.es/cide/jsp/plantilla.jsp?>

Projects

In one of the projects, students - carefully following protocols established by scientists - collect and share measurements of small solid and liquid particles suspended in the atmosphere known as "aerosol." These particles cool Earth's climate; some can damage human health.



Schools/ Links

Check out this website of Spanish GLOBE schools:

<http://www.mec.es/cide/jsp/plantilla.jsp?id=globe04>

Environmental Links:

North American Foundation for Environmental Education:
<http://eelink.net/>

NASA. Science Mission Directorate:
<http://science.hq.nasa.gov/>

■ Ecology around the U.S.

No country in the world is free of environmental worries. See the map below and read about some problems and challenges facing the United States.



The Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

Government agencies and environmental groups watch closely how damming the Colorado River just above the Grand Canyon in 1963 has been affecting the ecosystem of the Colorado River.



A visitor looks over the split open interior of a Nissan X-Trail FCV, or fuel cell vehicle on display at the Conference on Environmentally Friendly Vehicles in Washington, D.C. Although not expected to reach the mass market before 2010, fuel cell vehicles may revolutionize on-road transportation.

This technology has the potential to significantly reduce energy use and harmful emissions.



Jennifer Block, 16, a volunteer with Star Eco Station, holds a rescued Australian jungle carpet python to educate children not to adopt exotic animals as pets, during "Earth Day On The Promenade" in Santa Monica, California. Wildlife smuggling is a high-profit enterprise, third on the contraband list in terms of value, after drugs and arms. Almost 90% of smuggled animals die in transit.

Visitors stand at the point where San Juan Creek meets the Pacific Ocean at Doheny State Beach in Dana Point, California. Doheny Beach is the environmental group Heal the Bay's top "Beach Bummers" - most polluted beach in 2003-2004.



Activity Page

Win a Prize!

To take part in a drawing for one of two Environment related books find the answer to the following question:

How many countries take part in the GLOBE program?

Send your answer to:
irc@embusa.es

Give your name and address.
The deadline is
May 15, 2005.

Good Luck!

The winners from the previous issue will soon receive their prizes

Find answers to activities on this page at <http://www.embusa.es/irc/zoom.html>

■ Conditional Use of Water

Rewrite the following sentences as second conditional sentences. The first sentence is rewritten for you as an example.

People do not pay attention to leaking home appliances. Water is wasted.

If people paid more attention to leaking home appliances, less water would be wasted.

People do not water their lawns early in the morning or in the evening. This decreases the amount of water plants drink.

People let water run while brushing their teeth. Water is wasted.

People use cars too often. Metals and pollutants from cars wash into streams.

The global use and demand of water is increasing. Groundwater levels in every continent are reaching an all time low.

Water consumption is too high. It usually drops after water meters are installed.

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IN ON THE USA

About ZOOM

Zoom is online at
www.embusa.es/irc/zoom

Contact us at
irc@embusa.es

**US Information
Resource Centers**

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C/ Serrano, 75
28006 Madrid

Barcelona
Consulado General de
EE. UU.
Pº Reina Elisenda de
Montcada, 23
08034 Barcelona

■ A Volunteer

Add missing prepositions.

Jonathan tests the quality _____ water in a stream _____ northwest Washington, D.C., _____ part _____ an eighth-grade service-learning project. _____ prepare _____ this activity, Jonathan studied basic principles _____ biology and the ecology _____ wetlands _____ his science class. _____ his language arts class, he wrote a research paper _____ how watersheds affect community health. _____ his social science class, he joined _____ a group of fellow students _____ examine successful strategies local citizens employ _____ enhance local streams.

The educational system _____ the United States today affords students _____ Jonathan and Juanita the opportunity _____ become engaged _____ community service that is linked _____ their course work. _____ a result, young people are developing an ethic _____ service and citizenship as they move _____ their academic routine.

Adapted from The United States: A Nation of Volunteers available at <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0998/ijse/ijse0998.htm>

■ Glossary

articulate - expressing oneself clearly or effectively

bummer - failure

to dam - to restrain water with a barrier built across a river

estuary - wide part of a river where it joins the sea

emissions - substances discharged into the air

fuel cell - a device that changes the chemical energy of a fuel directly into electrical energy

heron - large bird which eats fish

particle - basic unit of matter